

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1931

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0477

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MILI, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN GENDARMERIE DESIRE HAVE COOPERATION

1. PAID COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF ALGERIAN GENDARMERIE COLONEL BEN CHERIF FEBRUARY 19 AND FOUND HIM VERY HOSPITABLE AND FRIENDLY. HE SAID THAT AS MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND AS MOST SENIOR MILITARY MAN IN GOVERNMENT HE HAD LONG FELT RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. WAS A MISTAKE AND HER PERSONALLY FAVORED CLOSER COOPERATION WITH US. SURETE NATIONALE WAS VERY CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE WEST GERMANS AND WAS RECEIVING TRAINING AND EVEN EQUIPMENT FROM THEM. WHY SHOULD GENDARMERIE NOT HAVE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH AMERICANS? HE HAD ALWAYS AVOIDED TRAINING PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA TRAIN SOME OF HIS OFFICERS IN THE U.S. HE EXPLAINED THAT GENDARMERIE WAS MILITARY AS WELL AS POLICE ORGANIZATION AND THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN MILITARY AS WELL AS POLICE TRAINING.

2. WHILE WE DID NOT GENT INTO NUMBERS, COLONEL BEN CHERIF EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ALL TYPES POLICE TRAINING THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE PLUS MILITARY TRAINING AT ALL OFFICER LEVELS FROM OCS THROUGH COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL.

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HE ALSO WANTS TWO OR THREE ENGLISH TEACHERS TO HELP HIM

WITH LANGUAGE PROGRAM GENDARMERIE HAS HERE. I ASKED WHETHER GENDARMERIE COULD ENTER DIRECTLY INTO ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING WITH USG OR WHETHER THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. HE SAID GENDARMERIE INDEPENDENT AND HE DID NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANYONE ELSE.

3. I TOLD BEN CHERIF THAT I KNEW OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE ALGERIANS IN VARIOUS DOMAINS AND WOULD LET HIM KNOW OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SUCH THINGS AS NARCOTICS COURSES. PROMISED TO ASK WASHINGTON ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF MILITARY TRAINING IN THE US.

4. COMMENT: BEN CHERIF HAS REPUTATION AS OPERATOR AND HIS MOTIVES MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE PUREST. HE MAY WELL WANT FREEBIES FOR HIMSELF ALONG THE WAY. NEVERTHELESS HOPE WE CAN RESPOND POSITIVELY TO HIM. HE OCCUPIES VERY STRATEGIC POSITION IN LOCAL POWER STRUCTURE AND IS USEFUL CONTACT. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT USG COULD OFFER ALGERIANS EITHER ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS OR GRATIS IN FIELDS (A) POLICE TRAINING, (B) MILITARY TRAINING, (C) VISITS TO US (SUSPECT BEN CHERIF WOULD LIKE INVITATION FOR HIMSELF). AM ASKING USIS TO LOOK INTO ENGLISH TEACHING POSSIBILITIES. WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT LEGAL ATTACHE KOLOMBATOVIC COME DOW FROM PARIS SOME TIME IN MARCH OR APRIL TO TALK TO BEN CHERIF AND SURETE NATIONALE TO ESTABLISH (OR RE-ESTABLISH) CONTACT WITH FBI WHICH I ASSUME WAS MAINTAINED BEFORE BREAK IN RELATIONS.
PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCEUR.

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